

Listing of Claims:

1-27. Cancelled.

28. (Previously Presented) A self-ligating orthodontic bracket for coupling an archwire with a tooth, comprising:

a metallic self-ligating assembly including an archwire slot and a ligating member movable between an open position in which an archwire is insertable into said archwire slot and a closed position in which the archwire is retained in said archwire slot; and

a bracket body configured to be mounted to a tooth and carrying said metallic self-ligating assembly, said bracket body comprising a non-metallic material.

29. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is a polymer, a filled polymer composite, or a ceramic.

30. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is sapphire, polycrystalline aluminum oxide, toughened zirconia, or yttrium-stabilized zirconia.

31. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is polycarbonate, an acrylic-based thermoplastic resin, or an acrylic thermoset resin.

32. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein at least one of said walls of said self-ligating insert is wedge-shaped for increasing pull-out resistance in direction generally perpendicular to the tooth.

33. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 further comprising a metallic engagement member capable of constraining movement of said ligating member relative to said bracket body when said ligating member is in the closed position.

34. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said self-ligating assembly further includes at least one guide and said ligating member is slidably movable within said at least one guide.